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Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary

July 2, 2007

## VIA HAND DELIVERY

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Marlene H. Dortch Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20554

Re: Annual Report of EchoStar Satellite Operating Corporation

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of EchoStar Satellite Operating Corporation ("EchoStar"), I am enclosing EchoStar's annual satellite report. Please call me if you have any questions regarding this submission.

Sincerely,

Pantelis Michalopoulos / Don

Counsel for EchoStar Satellite Operating Corp.

cc:

FCC Columbia Operations Center Helen Domenici, Chief, International Bureau

## ANNUAL REPORT OF ECHOSTAR SATELLITE OPERATING CORPORATION

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 25.210(l) and 25.145(f), and *EchoStar Satellite*Corporation, DA 06-2440, Order and Authorization, at ¶ 31 (rel. Nov. 29, 2006), EchoStar

Satellite Operating Corporation ("EchoStar") hereby files this annual report, and also notifies the Commission of its construction of a new satellite at its own risk.

With respect to EchoStar's Ku-band authorization for the 121° W.L. orbital location (S2143), EchoStar IX has 32 Ku-band transponders that operate at approximately 110 watts per channel. EchoStar IX provides expanded video and audio channels to DISH Network subscribers who install a specially-designed dish. In addition, EchoStar IX is authorized to operate on 2 Ka-band transponders that operate at approximately 120 watts per channel. The Kaband spectrum continues to be used to test and verify potential future initiatives. EchoStar has made available and had discussions with a number of third parties regarding use of the spectrum for leased commercial services. There have been no transponder outages or failures on EchoStar IX.

EchoStar has met the applicable milestone requirements for its authorization to communicate with the Canadian-licensed Anik-F3 satellite at 118.7° W.L. using Ku-band frequencies. On January 19, 2006, EchoStar submitted a three million dollar performance bond, payable to the U.S. Treasury. The satellite was launched successfully from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on April 10, 2007 following an approximate 10 month delay from the originally planned launch date due to a Proton launch vehicle failure in 2006. The satellite commenced regular operations from its authorized orbital location at 118.7° W.L. on April 30,

2007. EchoStar has duly requested a release from its performance bond. EchoStar has leased all32 Ku-band transponders on the Anik-F3 satellite for DTH service.

EchoStar has met applicable milestone requirements for its Ka-band authorization for the 97° W.L. orbital location. On April 7, 2004, EchoStar submitted a five million dollar performance bond (later reduced to three million dollars), payable to the U.S. Treasury; on May 7, 2004, EchoStar filed an in-orbit collision avoidance statement with the Commission. On March 8, 2005, EchoStar filed its satellite construction contract in conformance with the condition in its space station license for the 97° W.L. orbital location; and on March 8, 2006, EchoStar submitted information demonstrating completion of critical design review for this satellite. This satellite is scheduled to launch and begin operations by March 8, 2009.

In addition, EchoStar has met the applicable milestone requirements for its Kaband authorization at 113° W.L. On October 29, 2004, EchoStar submitted a three million dollar performance bond, payable to the U.S. Treasury. On October 7, 2005, EchoStar filed its satellite construction contract in conformance with the condition in its space station license for the 113° W.L. orbital location. On October 10, 2006, EchoStar submitted information demonstrating completion of critical design review for the satellite. This satellite is scheduled to launch and begin operations by October 8, 2009.

EchoStar has met the applicable milestone requirements for its extended Ku-band authorizations at 109° W.L. and 121° W.L. The extended Ku-band authorization at 121° W.L. was later modified to include a Ka-band payload. On October 29, 2004, EchoStar submitted a three million dollar performance bond, payable to the U.S. Treasury for each authorization, and on November 29, 2004, EchoStar submitted an in-orbit collision avoidance statement with the Commission. On September 30, 2005, EchoStar submitted satellite construction contracts in

conformance with the respective conditions in each space station license. On October 2, 2006, EchoStar submitted information demonstrating the completion of critical design review for the two satellites. The satellite at each location is scheduled to be launched and to commence operations by September 30, 2009.

On November 30, 2006, EchoStar was authorized to construct a DBS satellite to be placed at the 86.5° W.L. orbital location. *See EchoStar Satellite L.L.C.*, DA 06-2440, Order and Authorization (rel. Nov. 29, 2006). The first milestone that EchoStar must meet is to complete all contracting for the proposed satellite by November 30, 2007. The authorization also requires EchoStar to submit periodic reports. *See id.* at ¶ 31. To date, EchoStar has initiated analysis to determine how best to operate and minimize interference with the Canadian BSS authorized operations at the 91 and 82 degree locations.

As EchoStar has already notified to the Commission under the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 25.113(f), it has entered into a contract for the construction of EchoStar XI, a Space Systems Loral 1300 class DBS satellite, and construction of that satellite is at EchoStar's own risk. On June 22, 2007, EchoStar filed an application for launch and operating authority of its DBS license for the 110° W.L. orbital location to permit operation of the satellite at that location. *See* File No. SAT-LOA-20070622-00085. Completion of construction of EchoStar XI is expected in mid-2007. The launch of EchoStar XI is currently delayed due to the failure, earlier in the year, of the Sea Launch vehicle. The anticipated launch window is in the first half of 2008. EchoStar XI will be used for expanded video services. EchoStar XI will enable better bandwidth utilization, provide back-up protection for EchoStar's existing offerings, and, allow EchoStar to offer other value-added services.

Under the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 25.133(f), EchoStar also hereby notifies the Commission that it has entered into a contract with Space Systems/Loral for the construction of a new DBS satellite, EchoStar 14, and that construction of that satellite is at EchoStar's own risk. EchoStar tentatively plans to use its licensed spectrum at the nominal 119° W.L. orbital location for the satellite.

Linda Kinney

Vice President, Law and Regulation

EchoStar Satellite Operating Corporation

July 2, 2007